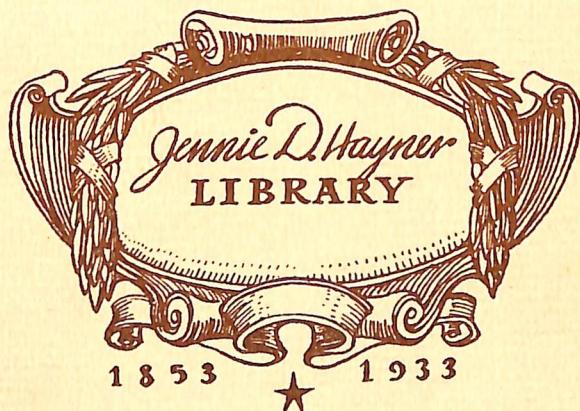


HISTORY

OF THE



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HISTORY

of the

*Jennie D. Hayner
Library*

1853 - 1933

ALTON

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Compiled
by

BERTHA W. FERGUSON
TILTON WEAD

The History

UPON January 1, 1933, the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association passed its eightieth birthday. True, the present Association dates legally only from November 5, 1901, when the library was made a free library, the necessary changes were made in the charter, and the Association assumed its present title; but the society has had three previous incarnations, and at each transformation not only did the spirit of the old Association enter into the new organization, but its body was assimilated also, since in each instance the physical properties of the older body became the property of the newer one, and in two cases the newly elected officers and directors of the older organization became the first officers and directors of the new Association. Therefore, in every sense but a strictly legal one, we may affirm that the present Jennie D. Hayner Free Library Association originated not in 1901, nor even in 1891, but in January, 1853, when its first incarnation, The Alton Library Association, met for the first time in regular session and elected officers. There are in Illinois but three public libraries, those of Belleville, Quincy and Belvidere, more venerable.

The several titles under which the Association has maintained existence and rendered service to the citizens of Alton are as follows:

THE ALTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
THE ALTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
THE JENNIE D. HAYNER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
THE JENNIE D. HAYNER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Each of these four societies kept a separate book of minutes, and these four record-books have been carefully preserved, although the library has been often moved from place to place. The oldest of these books seems to have

been missing or overlooked in 1909, when the booklet "Hayner Memorial Library" was published; for upon page 9 of the booklet we read: "It unfortunately happens that the records of the first fourteen years of the institution are missing, but from 1866, at which time the institution was reorganized, the records are complete." The recent discovery of the missing book makes the records complete from 1852 to date, except for the Civil War period, when apparently the Association held no meetings, kept no records.

I. From a study of the records in this forgotten book we learn that public-spirited citizens of Alton held a series of meetings in December, 1852, for the purpose of organizing a Library Association; the first entry in the book is dated December 11, 1852. By New Year's Day, 1853, a constitution was drawn up and adopted, and the society was ready to elect officers; so it seems appropriate to consider January 1, 1853, as the birthday of the Alton Library.

The secretary of the Association did not see fit to copy the constitution in his book, though he entered the by-laws. A close study of the records shows that the organization was a joint stock company—stock \$5.00 a share. It seems impossible to tell how many stockholders there were. The book contains, it is true, a list headed "Stockholders of the Alton Library Association" with the number of shares opposite most of the names. There are 147 names in the list, holding, ostensibly, 181 shares. Notations opposite many of the names make one doubt that all these shares were paid for; and the doubt is strengthened as we find the Association voting, upon several occasions, to employ certain individuals on a percentage basis to collect money due from stockholders. On November 26, of this first year, we read that the secretary was instructed "to notify all delinquent stockholders to settle their subscription and that suit be immediately commenced against those that decline." There is, however, no record of a suit brought. Some subscribers were permitted to pay for their stock in books; money seems to have been scarce. In this same November it was found necessary to vote an assessment of \$1.00 per share, and it was not found easy to collect it.

The new organization started into action energetically. The treasurer was required to give bond of \$1,000.00.

Five hundred copies of the constitution were ordered printed. It was voted "to request donations from members of Congress and others," whether donations of books or of money does not appear. They rented a hall, bought "one dozen chairs and a table," also "curtains to protect the books." They arranged for a course of 13 lectures. Most important of all, upon March 19, they engaged a librarian, Mr. Utten Smith, with a salary of \$1.00 per evening; he was "to commence when instructed by the board." When he received his instructions, the records do not show; but he evidently began his work very soon and served faithfully and efficiently, although his salary was sometimes in arrears for an entire year. Reappointed year after year for seven years, he resigned in March, 1860; and apparently had no successor.

During the early part of 1853, the directors met weekly. After the first rush of business was over, monthly meetings were held. As the first enthusiasm waned, the record: "No quorum present, meeting adjourned," grows ominously frequent. Upon October 29, 1856, officers were elected, and the next record is under the date November 8, 1857.

The following calendar may be of interest:

JANUARY 1, 1853.

First Regular Meeting. Election of Officers.

Officers

P. W. RANDLE, Pres.
ISAAC SCARRITT, Vice-Pres.
NORTON JOHNSON, Cor. Sec.
W. H. TURNER, Rec. Sec.
W. T. MILLER, Treas.

Directors

A. G. WOLFORD
A. S. BARRY
L. S. METCALF
HARVEY BURNETT
S. W. ROBBINS

DECEMBER 5, 1853.

First Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

ISAAC SCARRITT, Pres.
A. S. BARRY, Vice-Pres.
NORTON JOHNSON, Cor. Sec.
W. H. TURNER, Rec. Sec.
S. W. ROBBINS, Treas.

Directors

P. W. RANDLE
A. G. WOLFORD
S. Y. McMAMSTERS
W. D. HALEY
J. L. BLAIR

DECEMBER 4, 1854.

Second Annual Meeting. Election Postponed Until October, 1855.

OCTOBER 27, 1855.

Third Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

W. D. HALEY, *Pres.*
 ISAAC SCARRITT, *Vice-Pres.*
 A. S. BARRY, *Cor. Sec.*
 H. G. McPIKE, *Rec. Sec.*
 J. M. PEARSON, *Treas.*

Directors

S. Y. McMasters
 JOHN W. CALVIN
 W. T. MILLER
 CHAS. TRUMBULL
 A. G. WOLFORD

OCTOBER 29, 1856.

Fourth Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

A. S. BARRY, *Pres.*
 ABRAHAM BREATH, *Vice-Pres.*
 CHAS. TRUMBULL, *Rec. Sec.*
 JOHN W. CALVIN, *Treas.*
 J. H. HIBBARD, *Cor. Sec.*

Directors

ISAAC SCARRITT
 H. G. McPIKE
 B. F. BARRY
 S. Y. McMasters
 W. A. HOLTON

NOVEMBER 28, 1857.

Fifth Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

JOHN M. PEARSON, *Pres.*
 R. T. UNDERHILL, *Vice-Pres.*
 J. T. STEWART, *Cor. Sec.*
 CHAS. TRUMBULL, *Rec. Sec.*
 W. C. QUIGLEY, *Treas.*

Directors

LOUIS SOUTHER
 C. M. CRANDALL
 UTLEN SMITH
 JOHN BUCKMASTER
 PHILANDER PICKARD

OCTOBER 11, 1858.

Sixth Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

JOHN M. PEARSON, *Pres.*
 R. T. UNDERHILL, *Vice-Pres.*
 J. M. STAUNTON, *Cor. Sec.*
 J. T. STEWART, *Rec. Sec.*
 W. C. QUIGLEY, *Treas.*

Directors

W. T. MILLER
 L. P. CALDWELL
 GAIUS PADDOCK
 R. P. TANSEY
 S. E. McGREGORY

FEBRUARY 12, 1859.

One share of stock sold to Miss Salina Smith.

OCTOBER 17, 1859.

Seventh Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

J. W. STEWART, *Pres.*
 JOHN FITCH, *Vice-Pres.*
 L. P. CALDWELL, *Rec. Sec.*
 C. L. WRIGHT, *Cor. Sec.*
 J. M. PEARSON, *Treas.*

Directors

J. McNULTY
 R. P. TANSEY
 W. T. MILLER
 LOUIS SOUTHER
 THOMAS DIMMOCK

FEBRUARY 25, 1860.

Certificates of Membership Offered at the Rate of \$1.00 Per Year.

MARCH 3, 1860.

Utten Smith Resigns.

NOVEMBER 19, 1860.

Eighth Annual Meeting. Election.

Officers

W. T. MILLER, *Pres.*
 R. P. TANSEY, *Vice-Pres.*
 A. OLcott, *Rec. Sec.*
 L. KENT, *Cor. Sec.*
 J. W. STEWART, *Treas.*

Directors

PHILANDER PICKARD
 S. B. W. STEWART
 J. M. PEARSON
 L. P. CALDWELL
 JOHN FITCH

The newly elected board met this same day, the president appointed the usual committees, and the board adjourned "to meet at the call of the president." Apparently he did not call them, for with this entry the record stops short, never to go again.

The first regular meeting of this Association was held January 1, 1853. The sale of its properties occurred February 28, 1866. Its span of life was thus ostensibly 13 years, during almost half of which it seems to have suffered from the sleeping sickness which finally ended its career.

It is not possible to gather from the secretary's book much information about the financial condition of the library, as the reports of the treasurer are not entered. We

learn that the society asked the ladies of Alton more than once to give suppers or fairs for the benefit of the library; and that the Association ended in debt is shown by the documents given below.

When, in 1866, the Association was reorganized as the "Alton Public Library Association," the secretary of the new body, Mr. John Fitch, and one of the directors, Mr. R. G. Atwood, were asked to prepare a brief sketch of the history of the older society. This sketch occupies the first page of the new record book; and attached to it is the original Bill of Sale by virtue of which the new society came into possession of all the property of the Alton Library Association. A copy of these documents follows:

By vote of the board of directors the secretary with R. G. Atwood, Esq., one of its members, was requested to prepare a sketch of the organization of this institution, to be placed upon its records as a matter of history.

The Alton Library Association, an unchartered joint stock company, was originated in this city in the year 1852. Several hundred copies of valuable books were donated to and purchased by that Association. Its success was quite flattering for several years, but by removals of many of its early supporters, by inattention of others, and finally because of the excitements of the War of the Rebellion, it fell into disuse—for about three years of its latter course the rooms were unopened to the public, and the books received no proper care and attention. In January, 1866, debts accumulating against said Association threatened to swallow up the library, and that society advertised the library and appurtenances for sale at auction to pay debts.

The ladies of Alton were aroused at this notice, and by vigorous action raised a fund to purchase and maintain that library under new auspices. At said public sale they were in attendance, being represented by Hon. E. Hollister, then mayor of the city of Alton, and purchased said library in accordance with the following Bill of Sale, and which is the original instrument in the premises:

"Know all men by these presents, that the undersigned Committee appointed by the Alton Library Association, in pursuance of the authority vested in us by said Association, have this day sold at public auction the library belonging to said Association unto Mrs. Caroline Mitchell and Mrs. Catherine Barry at and for the sum of one hun-

dred and sixty-five dollars, they being the highest bidders therefor, and we do by these presents deliver unto them the possession of said library.

"It is also understood and agreed between us and the aforesaid parties that said library is to be retained and maintained in the city of Alton as a public library forever.

"Witness our hands this 28th day of February, A. D. 1866."

(Signed) JNO. M. PEARSON,
A. G. WOLFORD,
JOHN FITCH,
Committee.

The "Sketch" is signed by the secretary, John Fitch.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

of the

ALTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1853-1860

BARRY, A. S.	MILLER, W. T.
BARRY, B. F.	OLCOTT, A.
BLAIR, J. L.	PADDOK, GAIUS
BREATH, ABRAHAM	PEARSON, J. M.
BUCKMASTER, JOHN	PICKARD, PHILANDER
BURNETT, HARVEY	QUIGLEY, W. C.
CALDWELL, L. P.	RANDLE, P. W.
CALVIN, J. W.	ROBBINS, S. W.
CRANDALL, C. M.	SCARRITT, ISAAC
DIMMOCK, THOMAS	SMITH, UTSEN
FITCH, JOHN	SOUTHER, LOUIS
HALEY, W. D.	STAUNTON, J. M.
HIBBARD, J. H.	STEWART, J. T.
HOLTON, W. A.	STEWART, S. B. W.
JOHNSTON, NORTON	TANSEY, R. P.
KENT, L.	TRUMBULL, CHAS.
McGREGORY, S. E.	TURNER, W. H.
McMASTERS, S. Y.	UNDERHILL, R. T.
MCNULTY, J.	WOLFORD, A. G.
McPIKE, H. G.	WOODS, JOHN
METCALF, L. S.	WRIGHT, C. L.

II. THE ALTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

It was upon February 28, 1866, that two brave women bought the physical properties of the Alton Library Association. On this same day there was organized the Alton Public Library Association, called "public" because it was not, like the former Association, a stock company, but an organization in which membership was open to any citizen of Alton—and, under certain conditions, to non-residents—upon payment of a fee of \$2.00 annually.

This organization continued an active and useful life until May 22, 1891, when the new Hayner Memorial Building was ready for occupancy. Then the old, unincorporated society was necessarily superseded by an incorporated Association authorized to hold real estate; and the new organization assumed an appropriate title, "The Jennie D. Hayner Library Association." The independent life of the Alton Public Library Association covers thus a span of a quarter of a century; and fortunately we possess complete records of its activities in the form of a secretary's book. The title page, in the handwriting of Mr. John Fitch, reads as follows:

*Records of the
Alton Public Library
Reorganized Feb. 28, 1866
by the
Ladies of Alton*

JOHN FITCH, Esq.,
Secretary.

HON. ROBERT SMITH,
President

The book contains the Constitution and By-Laws of the new organization and minutes of all the meetings held during the twenty-five years of its independent existence. The Preamble of the Constitution is interesting:

We, the undersigned citizens of Alton, recognizing in Literature an important part of civilization, hereby associate ourselves in a corporate body, in accordance with the General Laws of this State, for the purpose of re-establishing and maintaining a public library in the city of Alton, and for our own government and guidance adopt the following Constitution.

Unfortunately, the "undersigned citizens" did not sign in the secretary's book.

The constitution provides for a wide field of activity,

authorizing the directors to "organize a Lyceum or Literary Association, to establish a Reading Room, make arrangements for a lecture or a course of lectures, and to set in operation any and all auxiliaries that may be deemed consistent with the purposes of a Public Library. Said branches or departments of the Library to be subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors."

The officers of the Association were to consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of Directors; all subscribers were entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, the third Wednesday in March. In recognition, apparently, of the services of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Barry in rescuing the property of the old library, the constitution provided that the "Board of Directors shall consist of twelve members, six being ladies, and six gentlemen." As, however, the officers were not, in general, elected from the number of the directors, and as during the first three years the officers elected were all men, the ladies were in the minority.

The by-laws specify library hours as follows:

Saturday, 1-5 P.M. from Oct. 1-April 1.

Saturday, 2-6 P.M. from April 1-Oct. 1.

Mr. J. W. Ash volunteered to serve as librarian for the first year without pay, and his offer was accepted. He was re-elected in 1867 and in 1868, receiving in compensation \$75.00 per year.

The officers and directors elected during the first three years were as follows:

FEBRUARY 28, 1866.

Officers

ROBERT SMITH, President
LEVI DAVIS, Vice-President
JOHN FITCH, Secretary
HENRY SCARRITT, Treasurer

Directors

M. H. TOPPING	MRS. J. J. MITCHELL
R. G. ATWOOD	MRS. A. S. BARRY
*THOMAS DIMMOCK	MRS. E. HOLLISTER
R. P. TANSEY	MRS. A. SWEET
C. A. MURRAY	MRS. J. W. HIBBARD
W. M. ELIOT SMITH	MISS FANNY GUERNSEY

*Apparently Mr. Dimmock was unable to serve and Mr. J. W. Hibbard was elected in his stead.

MARCH 23, 1867.
First Annual Meeting.

Officers

E. HOLLISTER, President
WM. ELIOT SMITH, Vice-President
J. W. ASH, Secretary and Librarian
M. H. TOPPING, Treasurer

Directors

M. H. TOPPING	MRS. J. J. MITCHELL
R. G. ATWOOD	MRS. A. S. BARRY
C. A. MURRAY	MRS. E. HOLLISTER
WM. ELIOT SMITH	MRS. A. SWEET
G. E. HAWLEY	MRS. J. W. HIBBARD
WM. PERRIN	MISS MARY MARSH

MARCH 28, 1868.
Second Annual Meeting.

Officers

E. HOLLISTER, President
WM. ELIOT SMITH, Vice-President
J. W. ASH, Secretary and Librarian
M. H. TOPPING, Treasurer

Directors

M. H. TOPPING	MRS. J. J. MITCHELL
R. G. ATWOOD	MRS. A. S. BARRY
WM. ELIOT SMITH	MRS. E. HOLLISTER
G. E. HAWLEY	MRS. J. W. HIBBARD
A. G. WOLFORD	MRS. H. W. BILLINGS
H. E. MUNGER	MISS ALICE BISHOP

JUNE 5, 1869.
Third Annual Meeting.

At this meeting the following resolution was passed—a resolution which established a new policy that has continued until the present day:

Resolved, That the constitution be so amended that the Board of Directors consist of all ladies.

The resolution says nothing about officers, but as will be seen from the following list, ladies were elected to these positions also. Even the faithful librarian, Mr. J. W. Ash, resigned or was discarded, and a woman elected in his stead.

Officers

MRS. J. J. MITCHELL, President
MRS. E. HOLLISTER, Vice-President
MISS GEORGIA PADDOCK, Secretary and Treasurer
MISS M. J. LOUDEN, Librarian

Directors

MRS. J. J. MITCHELL	MRS. H. W. BILLINGS
MRS. A. S. BARRY	MRS. J. W. SCHWEPPE
MRS. E. HOLLISTER	MRS. C. M. CRANDALL
MRS. A. H. HANSON	MISS ALICE BISHOP
MRS. R. G. PERLEY	MISS GEORGIA PADDOCK
MRS. P. B. WHIPPLE	MRS. J. W. HIBBARD

From this time the ladies controlled the Alton Public Library Association, as they have controlled the two Associations that have succeeded it. Officers and directors were in general re-elected, except as they left the city, resigned, or declined re-election. In the twenty-two remaining years of the Association, it had but five presidents:

MRS. J. J. MITCHELL.....	1869-1872
MRS. E. HOLLISTER	1873-1874
MRS. R. G. PERLEY.....	1875-1881
MRS. J. P. LAIRD.....	{ 1882-1885
	{ 1888-1891
MRS. W. W. MARTIN.....	1885-1888

During these years, 1869-1891, the Association was served by three secretaries:

MISS GEORGIA PADDOCK.....	1869-1870
MRS. R. G. PERLEY.....	1871-1874
MRS. M. F. TOPPING.....	1875-1891

And by three treasurers:

MISS GEORGIA PADDOCK.....	1869-1870
MRS. R. G. ATWOOD.....	1871-1885
MRS. C. H. WRIGHT.....	1885-1891

Changes in the librarian were more frequent:

MISS LOUDEN	1869-1871
MISS DOUGLAS	1871-1875
MISS BLANCHE DOLBEE.....	1875-1878
MISS MCCLURE	1878-1880
MISS FLORENCE DOLBEE.....	1880-1891

The salary of the librarian, at first \$75 per year, was later raised to \$100. When the Reading Room was opened in 1876, the salary of the librarian was raised to \$300. In 1878 times were apparently hard, for the salary was reduced to \$200. When the Reading Room was finally abandoned, the salary was reduced again to \$100.

How the ladies of the Alton Public Library did work during these years! The constitution provided for quarterly meetings of the Board; the ladies decided to meet every three weeks. Money, money, money, was the theme of most of these meetings; and most diverse were the means used to secure the necessary funds. The sole regular income of the library was from the \$2.00 membership fees and from fines; and from the Annual Reports it appears that the amount received from these two sources, even toward the end of the 22 years, was less than \$400 per year. The ladies arranged lecture courses, gave balls, calico parties, strawberry festivals, dinners, fairs, every possible form of entertainment. And during parts of several years they held, in addition to the regular meetings, monthly all-day meetings for the purpose of making fancy articles for sale at the fairs.

And in numerous other ways they labored for the success of the library. They prepared lists of books for purchase and these lists were carefully discussed by the Board, which was very anxious to keep all "pernicious" literature out of the library. They established a Reading Room, which seems, during its short life, to have been a source of much perplexity and a serious drain upon their slender resources. They took in turn a month each during which they were present in the library upon certain hours to assist and to observe. They undertook during several months similar service in connection with the Reading Room, which was open every evening except Sunday. Little wonder that the gentlemen were willing to surrender to the ladies an organization which exacted so much personal service from the members of the Board.

Besides their constant trouble over insufficient funds the ladies were in frequent distress over a home for their library. The city allowed the use of a room in the City Hall, but only while the room was not needed for other purposes. When, for example, the room which they were using was required for a post-office, they had to move their effects to another room in the building; and when-

ever their lease was about to expire, they were anxious lest it might not be renewed.

Nor was this all. In 1879 a fire in the City Hall caused much damage, and necessitated the removal and storage of the books until repairs were made. "A home of its own" for their library seemed more than ever indispensable and yet unattainable. Then in January, 1888, Mr. John Hayner offered to give \$500.00 toward a building fund, if the ladies would raise \$4,500.00. Moreover, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Stowell offered to give a suitable lot. Thus encouraged, the ladies set eagerly to work to get subscriptions, the directors themselves contributing generously.

Again they were overwhelmed by catastrophe. In 1889 there was another fire in the City Hall, again the poor library was homeless, and the subscriptions toward the building fund were still far from adequate. But there was light ahead. Under date of March 4, 1890, the secretary writes:

We are informed (officially) that Mr. Hayner proposes erecting a memorial library building—a great thing for our struggling Association.

Mr. Hayner's wife, Mrs. Jennie D. Hayner, who died in February, 1888, had served for 11 years as a member of this energetic, hard-working Board of Directors.

Mr. Hayner's splendid gift required another reorganization of the Library Association and the secretary's book gives an interesting account of the proceedings deemed necessary to effect the transformation:

At a special meeting of the Alton Public Library Association, held at its Library room in Alton on Tuesday, May 5, 1891, at 3 o'clock p. m., in pursuance of notice duly given, the following members were present or represented by proxy, to-wit:[‡]

On motion Mrs. Cora Rohland was nominated and elected to act as chairman, and Miss Florence Dolbee was chosen to act as secretary of the meeting.

The object of the meeting having been fully stated in the notice sent to each member by mail and having been stated to the meeting, the following proceedings were had:

Mrs. T. E. Perley offered and moved the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas, John E. Hayner, Esq., has announced to

[‡] Names were not inserted.

the directors of this Association that the memorial library building erected by him on the northeast corner of State and Fourth streets is completed and ready for occupancy; and, whereas, some doubt prevails as to the legal right of this Association to hold real estate;

Therefore, be it resolved, that a Library Association be formed and incorporated under the laws of this state to take the place of this Association, and to which said library building and the premises on which it stands may be conveyed by Mr. Hayner at his pleasure; that said new Association be incorporated under the name of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association; that the directors of this Association be and they are hereby instructed to prepare, sign, and acknowledge the necessary certificate and do all other acts requisite to incorporate said new Association; that the directors of said Association shall be twelve in number, and that the present directors of this Association be and are hereby selected as directors of said new Association for the first year of its existence.

And be it further resolved, that as soon as said new Association shall be incorporated and shall provide by its by-laws that upon the assignment, transfer, and the delivery to it of the books, pamphlets, papers, furniture, moneys, choses in action, and other property of this Association, all the members of this Association shall thereby become members of said new Association to the same extent and for the same time as they are members of this Association, except that minors may be prohibited from holding office or taking part in meetings, the directors of this Association shall thereupon make said assignment, transfer and delivery.

And be it further resolved, that the directors report their action under this resolution to the members of this Association, and that when this meeting adjourns, it shall adjourn to some convenient time when said report can be presented."

Which resolution was unanimously adopted.

The following resolution was offered and unanimously adopted:

"Be it resolved, that the money subscribed or donated to this Association within the last twelve months by the directors and ex-directors of this Association, making in the aggregate \$950.00, and such sum or sums as may hereafter, by the first Tuesday of June, 1891, be subscribed

or donated by such directors or ex-directors shall be set aside and forever held and known as "The Emeline H. Martin Memorial Fund", to be kept at interest and only the income thereof to be used; and the directors of this Association are hereby instructed to transfer such fund to the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association in such manner as will insure its being so held and so that only the interest thereof shall be used."

No other business arising, the meeting was adjourned to three o'clock p. m. on Tuesday, the 2nd day of June, 1891.

The report of the directors, presumably presented on June 2, follows:

We, the undersigned directors of the Alton Public Library Association, hereby report to the members of said Association that the directors of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association having adopted a by-law providing that upon assignment and delivery by this Association of its library, books, furniture, funds, and other property and assets to said Jennie D. Hayner Library Association, the members of this Association should thereby become members of said Jennie D. Hayner Library Association to the same extent and for the same time as they are members of this Association, with a limitation however as to minors holding office and participating in meetings, we did on the day of May, 1891, by a written instrument duly signed by us, assign and transfer to said Jennie D. Hayner Library Association all of the library, books, funds, furniture and other property and assets of this Association, and in and by said instrument it was provided that the Emeline H. Martin Memorial Fund should be kept invested in good interest-bearing securities and that only the income thereof should be expended. We further report that we have delivered to said Jennie D. Hayner Library Association all of the property and assets of this Association in compliance with the resolution passed at the meeting of the members of this Association held on the 5th day of May, 1891, and in fulfillment of the written instrument made as aforesaid. And that the library so delivered has been removed to the new library building of the said Jennie D. Hayner Library Association and that all members of this Association are now members of said last named Association.

Thus as the physical possessions of the Alton Library

Association became, by right of purchase, property of the Alton Public Library Association, so all the property and assets of the Alton Public Library Association became, through legal assignment and transfer, property of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association. The Emeline H. Martin Memorial Fund provided for in the instrument of transfer became the nucleus of an Endowment Fund.

As the Alton Public Library Association was now superseded by a new Association with a new name, the old book of minutes was closed. The last entry, under date of June 2, 1891, shows that the last action of the old Board was to raise the salary of the librarian to \$150.00 and to recommend that as soon as possible the new library should be opened three afternoons (instead of two) in the week.

"For the sake of honor" we append here an alphabetical list of the public-spirited citizens who, for 25 years, succeeded in maintaining a Public Library in the City of Alton; and we include the name of Mr. John E. Hayner who, though neither officer nor director, gave the struggling Association new courage through his promise of a "local habitation" of its own.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
of the
ALTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
1866-1891

	Elected	Retired
MR. J. W. ASH.....	1867	1868
MR. R. G. ATWOOD.....	1866	1869
MR. LEVI DAVIS	1866	1867
MR. JOHN FITCH	1866	1866
MR. G. W. HAWLEY.....	1867	1869
MR. J. W. HIBBARD.....	1866	1867
MR. E. HOLLISTER	1867	1869
MR. H. E. MUNGER.....	1868	1869
MR. C. A. MURRAY.....	1866	1868
MR. WM. PERRIN	1867	1868
MR. HENRY SCARRITT	1866	1867
MR. ROBERT SMITH	1866	1867
MR. WM. ELIOT SMITH.....	1866	1869
MR. R. P. TANSEY.....	1866	1867
MR. M. H. TOPPING.....	1866	1869
MR. A. G. WOLFORD.....	1868	1869

Mr. John E. Hayner

	Elected	Retired
MRS. R. W. ATWOOD.....	1871	1885
MRS. A. S. BARRY.....	1866	1873
MRS. H. W. BILLINGS.....	1869	1871
MISS ALICE BISHOP.....	1869	1869
MRS. H. B. BOWMAN.....	1873	1888
MRS. C. M. CRANDALL.....	1869	1887
MRS. HENRY EATON	1871	1879
MRS. W. F. EVERTS.....	1879	1880
MISS FANNY GUERNSEY.....	1866	1867
MRS. A. H. HANSON.....	1869	1873
MRS. A. S. HASKELL.....	1873	1873
MRS. W. A. HASKELL.....	1888	.....
MRS. A. E. HAWLEY.....	1875	.....
MRS. J. D. HAYNER.....	1877	1888*
MRS. J. W. HIBBARD.....	1866	1873
MRS. E. HOLLISTER	1866	1875
MRS. L. O. KENDALL.....	1870	1872
MRS. J. P. LAIRD.....	1873	.....
MISS MARY MARSH.....	1867	1868
MRS. W. W. MARTIN.....	1873	1888*
MRS. H. S. MATTHEWS.....	1881	.....
MRS. W. T. MILLER.....	1869	1875
MRS. J. J. MITCHELL.....	1866	1874
MRS. F. K. NICHOLS.....	1873	1878
MISS GEORGIA PADDOCK.....	1869	1871
MRS. R. G. PERLEY.....	1869	.....
MRS. BYRON PIERCE	1880	.....
MRS. H. C. PRIEST.....	1885	.....
MRS. JOHN RANDALL	1888	.....
MRS. A. K. ROOT.....	1874	.....
MRS. J. W. SCHWEPPPE.....	1869	1877
MRS. HOMER STANFORD	1887	.....
MRS. A. SWEET	1866	1868
MRS. M. F. TOPPING.....	1872	.....
MRS. P. B. WHIPPLE.....	1869	1871
MRS. N. D. WILLIAMS.....	1871	.....
MRS. C. L. WRIGHT.....	1878	.....

*Died.

FINANCES—1866-1891

For the period 1866-1869 no definite information is available.

For the period 1869-1891 (22 years) the secretary's book gives 16 of the Annual Reports of the treasurer. An examination of these reports shows that during these years the income of the library averaged per year as follows:

Membership fees and fines.....	\$305.08
Entertainments	162.80
Other sources	76.30
	<hr/>
	\$544.18

Expenditures averaged as follows:

Books and binding.....	\$261.50
Other expenses (including salaries).....	265.40
	<hr/>
	\$526.90

The margin was small, but the ladies always balanced their budget; and when they assigned and transferred their property and assets to the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association the property was unincumbered with debt.

Moreover, when the possibility of a real library building raised their hopes, they canvassed the city for subscriptions so successfully that after paying the ordinary expenses of the library and nearly \$400.00 of extra expense for lawyer's fees, moving, carpets and other furnishings, they were able to turn over to the new Association—

Bonds	\$2,980.00
Cash	889.92

III. THE JENNIE D. HAYNER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Fortunately, the terms of agreement between the old Association and the new one provided that the officers and directors of the former organization should become officers and directors of the new society for the first year;

thus the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association started with an experienced Board, used to strenuous endeavor.

Officers

- MRS. J. P. LAIRD, *President.*
- MRS. C. L. WRIGHT, *Vice-President.*
- MRS. H. C. PRIEST, *Rec. Secretary.*
- MRS. N. D. WILLIAMS, *Cor. Secretary.*
- MRS. A. T. HAWLEY, *Treasurer.*

Directors

MRS. J. P. LAIRD	MRS. H. S. MATTHEWS
MRS. C. L. WRIGHT	MRS. W. A. HASKELL
MRS. H. C. PRIEST	MRS. HOMER STANFORD
MRS. N. D. WILLIAMS	MRS. A. K. ROOT
MRS. A. T. HAWLEY	MRS. JOHN RANDALL
MRS. W. B. PIERCE	MRS. M. F. TOPPING

The old secretary's book was far from full; but the secretary of the new society opened a new book entitled:

RECORDS

of the

JENNIE D. HAYNER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THIS BOOK CONTAINS COMPLETE RECORDS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS ASSOCIATION 1891-1901

The library's new home was first opened to the public on May 21, 1891, at which time the directors gave an "Inaugural Reception". It is not hard to believe that the new building was much admired and that the commodious quarters were appreciated by all those who had for so long been used to a room not originally intended for library purposes, and sometimes rather grudgingly leased to the Association.

On the first of the following month, the library was opened for the borrowing of books, and the work of the directors began in earnest. The secretary's first report speaks of the calling of an all-day meeting at which the directors spent their time in the basement, working on the new books which had been sent by the government. Besides the regular meetings, each director had one month when she was responsible for assisting the librarian. Sometimes her duty was to receive the books turned in; at

others, she was kept busy attending to the volumes to be sent to the bindery. Attendance at the monthly meetings was a moral obligation and the president never failed to emphasize, in her annual address, the responsibility of a director's office. A fine of twenty-five cents was charged for avoidable absences, although there is a record of only one fine ever having been paid!

From the time of the opening of the new building, lectures for the benefit of the library were largely done away with—they had proved unprofitable—and all the Board's energies were concentrated on the annual supper, at which time there was also a sale of dolls and fancy articles. These affairs were usually held just before Christmas, and immediately afterwards the ladies began working for the following year. All-day meetings were held with different members of the Board each month and the minutes make them sound very attractive; for not only was the ordinary business of the library carried on, but "lively talking and sewing" were in order, and one report says: "A spice of politics closed the afternoon and without waiting for a formal motion, we adjourned."

In 1895, the directors were required to "see to the cleaning of the book-cases and annual overhauling." A little later, they were each to be responsible for looking after ten books for binding. Certain directors were also appointed to have charge of the flags which were to be hung from the library windows on the proper occasions. It would seem that the members of the Board objected to no amount of labor, until, in 1900, they were "urged to begin their copying of the catalog at once", when we find them, at the next meeting, voting unanimously to have a card catalog which would be "practically perpetual." The long-suffering ladies had "copied the catalog" several times before.

If many of these activities seem unrelated to the original purpose of a library, it must be remembered that the library funds were very limited and the membership fees did not bring in enough money to carry on the work without much outside assistance. Life in the beautiful new home was expensive; the librarian's salary was necessarily increased, heating, cleaning, insurance cost more. Soon after the opening of the new building, State Street was paved and the library would have been in debt, had it not been for the help of generous friends. It was the constant

effort of the directors to get new members and to this end they were often asked to go out and solicit.

After the first year in the new building there was a drop in the circulation and the president says that she is unable to account for the fact that while more money is coming in from fees, the circulation is still decreasing—unless it is due to the fact that the public is reading more worthwhile books and consequently keeps them out of the library for a longer period. During this time, as had always been true, the directors were anxious that the type of books should be the best possible, and, to this end, the Board did not hesitate to exclude any book of which it disapproved. Apparently, the classification was in three sections and class three must have been fiction, for there was great rejoicing when classes one and two showed a gain! Just before the library was made free, there is an interesting remark in the minutes which may not be intended to give the impression it does at first glance. It says: "The need of getting more very light fiction to hold some of our transients was discussed and a vote was taken to subscribe for the North American Review."

From the earliest days of the library, the needs of the children were often mentioned and provision was made for their reading. Very soon after the opening of the new building, Dr. and Mrs. Haskell gave, in memory of their daughter Lucy, a \$500 government bond, the interest from which was to be spent for children's books. In 1894 we find "directed" reading for children under discussion. It was generally agreed that the children should not be allowed to choose books from the adult cases, but should be guided in their choice of reading. Teachers and parents were consulted and urged to co-operate with the library in this matter. The first alcove to the right of the desk was devoted to juvenile books, and had a low bench on which the child might stand to reach his book, or sit to read it.

There is mention of many things, during these ten years, which we are apt to think originated in later times. It is interesting to read that as early as 1897 the librarian attended the State Library Association in Springfield, and that, a few years later, the librarian and six directors were present at the meeting in East St. Louis. Lists of new books were published occasionally in the *Sentinel Democrat*, and as far back as 1892 there were printed forms

for the librarian's report. The directors' great desire during this period was to have the library open more often, so that it might be available to more persons; and during the summer of 1897 it was opened on Saturday mornings in addition to the regular hours of 1-8:30 p. m., Wednesday and Saturday. This did not prove a success, however, and was not continued the following summer. The ever present difficulty of lost books and unpaid fines loomed large at the directors' meetings, and once the return of a copy of Virgil with a dollar for fines was triumphantly recorded!

Until the making of the present card catalog the only one in existence was a printed booklet and that, at least for several years, was available only to the librarian. Later a new one was printed and sold to the public for ten cents a copy. Early in 1901 Miss Gale was engaged to come to Alton, install a card catalog, and teach the librarian how to go on with it. Even to this work the directors gave much time, scraping off old labels and putting on new ones, in order to facilitate the work, which lasted for several months.

As has always been the case, the library was fortunate in receiving many gifts during these ten years. When electricity was installed in 1895, Mrs. H. B. Bowman paid for its use during the first year. Soon after this, another friend paid for two months' use and also, according to the secretary's report, donated one electric light bulb! In 1892 Mrs. Mitchell gave a life-size portrait of herself, and a few years later a painting of the Piasa Bird was presented by Mrs. Child of Hardin. Other generous gifts of money, books, and furniture were received during this period.

Following established precedent, officers and directors were re-elected as long as they consented to serve.

Mrs. Laird served as president during the ten years.

Half the membership of the Board had changed, however. Two had died, Mrs. Williams in 1896, Mrs. Wright in 1901. Mrs. Topping had moved from the city, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Hawley, and Mrs. Root had resigned. Mrs. E. P. Wade, Mrs. Jacob Wead, Mrs. Mary Caroline Hayner, Mrs. Wm. Eliot Smith, Mrs. E. L. Drury, and Mrs. Stowell were successively chosen to fill their places.

Miss Florence Dolbee served as librarian during this

entire period; her salary, except during the summer mentioned, was \$150 per year.

Early in 1901 a proposition was brought forward to secure funds from Carnegie for the library in Alton. This plan was rejected by the directors and a most generous donation to the endowment fund from Mr. J. E. Hayner made possible the changing of the Jennie D. Hayner Library from a public to a free public library. Accordingly, notices of the annual meeting in 1901 were sent to the "public", but as no public appeared, the directors carried on as usual and saw that the legal formalities were attended to. At a special meeting on July 1, 1901, the necessary papers were signed, making the library, which was begun in such a humble way in 1853, the present Jennie D. Hayner Free Public Library Association, duly constituted heir of the properties and traditions of the three preceding Associations.

Following are copies of the papers legalizing this change:

Alton, Ill., May 29th, 1901.

At a meeting of the directors of the "Jennie D. Hayner Library Association" of Alton, Illinois, held this day, there were present the following:

Mrs. Lucy M. Wright, Mrs. Etta D. Pierce, Mrs. Mary C. Hayner, Mrs. Lucia M. Laird, Mrs. Theo. D. Wead, Mrs. Eva L. Stanford, Mrs. Elizabeth F. S. Randall, Mrs. Mary E. Wade, Mrs. Lucinda Matthews, Mrs. Florence E. Haskell, Mrs. Eunice L. Drury and Mrs. Alice E. Smith.

Mrs. L. M. Laird, president of the Association, presided, and Mrs. Florence E. Haskell, secretary, acted as such.

The president stated that the object of the meeting was to consider the advisability of submitting to a vote of the stockholders the proposition to change and alter the object of the Association so as to permit the Association to manage, control, and conduct a free library.

Thereupon the following resolution was introduced:

Resolved, That a special meeting of the stockholders or trustees of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association be, and the same is hereby called to be held at the office of the Library Association in Alton, Illinois, on Monday, the 1st day of July, A. D. 1901, at the hour of three o'clock in the afternoon of said day, for the purpose of submitting

to a vote of such stockholders or trustees the question of changing and altering the object for which the said Association was formed, so that the words contained in such object, to-wit:—"not for free public use" may be eliminated therefrom, and words inserted so that the object shall read—"to establish and maintain a public library for the use of its members and to conduct and carry on a free public library."

Resolved further, That notice of such special meeting be given the stockholders in the manner provided by law.

Which said resolutions were adopted by the directors, all voting aye.

Appearing that there was no further business, the meeting thereupon adjourned.

(Signed) FLORENCE E. HASKELL,
Secretary.

Alton, Illinois, July 1st, 1901.

A special meeting of the trustees or stockholders of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association was held at the office of the Library Association in Alton, Illinois, on this day at the hour of three o'clock p. m.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Lucia M. Laird, the president of the Association, who presided over the meeting, and Mrs. Florence E. Haskell acted as Secretary.

The secretary thereupon read the call or notice of special meeting, which was as follows, to-wit:

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Office of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association

Alton, Illinois, May 31st, 1901.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to those whom it may concern, that a meeting of the stockholders or trustees of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association of Alton, Illinois, will be held at the rooms of the Association in the said city of Alton on Monday, the first day of July, A. D. 1901, for the purpose of submitting to such stockholders or trustees a proposition to change and alter the object for which said Association was formed, by eliminating the words "not for free public use" and substituting therefor the words "to conduct and carry on a free

public library," at which time and place all stockholders or trustees are requested to be present.

MRS. LUCY M. WRIGHT
MRS. ETTA D. PIERCE
MRS. MARY C. HAYNER
MRS. LUCIA M. LAIRD
MRS. THEO. D. WEAD
MRS. EVA L. STANFORD
MRS. ELIZABETH F. S. RANDALL
MRS. MARY A. WADE
MRS. LUCINDA MATTHEWS
MRS. FLORENCE E. HASKELL
MRS. EUNICE L. DRURY
MRS. ALICE E. SMITH

All of the Directors

The secretary also presented proofs of the mailing of such notice to each trustee or stockholder, as required by law, which said proof of publication and proofs of mailing were, on motion, declared satisfactory and ordered filed with the secretary.

The president thereupon ordered the call of the roll and the following trustees or stockholders were found to be present:

Mrs. Etta D. Pierce, Mrs. Mary C. Hayner, Mrs. Lucia M. Laird, Mrs. Theo. D. Wead, Mrs. Eva L. Stanford, Mrs. Elizabeth F. S. Randall, Mrs. Mary E. Wade, Mrs. Lucinda Matthews, Mrs. Florence E. Haskell, Mrs. Eunice L. Drury.

The president thereupon announced that a quorum of the trustees or stockholders were present and that the meeting was open for the transaction of the business mentioned in the special call.

Thereupon Mrs. Wead offered the following resolution, to-wit:

"RESOLVED, That paragraph 2 of the charter of this Association, under date of May 6th, A. D. 1891, be, and the same is hereby changed so that the words 'not for free public use' shall be eliminated therefrom, and the following words inserted—'and to conduct and carry on

a free public library,' so that said paragraph 2 shall read as follows:

"2. The object for which it is formed is to establish and maintain a public library for the use of its members and to conduct and carry on a free public library."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That certificates providing for such change shall be signed by the president and secretary, and filed with the Secretary of State and Recorder of Deeds, and that notice thereof be published in the paper, all as required by law.

It was moved and seconded that said Resolution be adopted, and upon call of the roll the same resulted as follows:

AYES

NAYS

*Mrs. Etta D. Pierce
Mrs. Mary C. Hayner
Mrs. Lucia M. Laird.
Mrs. Theo. D. Wead
Mrs. Eva L. Stanford
Mrs. Elizabeth F. S. Randall
Mrs. Mary A. Wade
Mrs. Lucinda Matthews
Mrs. Florence E. Haskell
Mrs. Eunice L. Drury*

None

The president thereupon announced that the said proposition having received a vote in the affirmative of more than two-thirds of the trustees or stockholders, the same was duly adopted and carried.

As there was no further business the meeting thereupon adjourned.

(Signed) FLORENCE E. HASKELL,
Secretary.

Thus was closed Chapter III of the History of the Library Association.

A brief statement of financial conditions during these ten years is appended; also a list of the directors.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
of the
JENNIE D. HAYNER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

	1891-1901	Elected	Retired
Name			
MRS. E. L. DRURY.....	1901		
MRS. W. A. HASKELL.....	1888		
MRS. A. T. HAWLEY.....	1875	1901	
MRS. MARY CAROLINE HAYNER.....	1896		
MRS. J. P. LAIRD.....	1873		
MRS. H. S. MATTHEWS.....	1881		
MRS. W. B. PIERCE.....	1880		
MRS. H. C. PRIEST.....	1885	1896	
MRS. JOHN RANDALL	1888		
MRS. A. K. ROOT.....	1874	1901	
MRS. WM. ELIOT SMITH.....	1901		
MRS. HOMER STANFORD.....	1887		
MRS. SOPHIA STOWELL.....	1901		
MRS. M. F. TOPPING.....	1872	1892	
MRS. E. P. WADE.....	1892		
MRS. JACOB WEAD	1896		
MRS. N. D. WILLIAMS.....	1871	1896*	
MRS. C. L. WRIGHT.....	1878	1901*	

FINANCES—1891-1901

Cash balance brought forward.....	\$ 889.92
Membership fees and fines.....	4,651.59
Interest	2,807.31
Entertainments (net receipts).....	2,509.62
Other receipts	125.36
Donations	1,050.12
	\$12,033.92

Expended—	
Books and binding.....	\$ 3,995.35
Other expenses	5,106.99

\$ 9,102.40

Balance	\$ 2,931.52
---------------	-------------

A cash balance of only \$194.59 was carried forward; so that this Association must have invested about \$2,737.

*Died.

They inherited from the former association bonds to the amount of \$2,980.

The treasurers' books for this entire period of ten years have been preserved; and from their Annual Reports the figures given above have been compiled.

IV. THE JENNIE D. HAYNER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

By virtue of the elaborate legal formalities described in the last chapter the present Board—The Jennie D. Hayner Free Public Library Association—came into being. By January 1, 1933, it had lived more than 31 years, thus surpassing in age any of its predecessors.

Following precedent, a new secretary's book was opened for the new association, though the volume containing the "Records of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association" was less than half full. This latest volume in the series of records is nearly filled, and a new book, volume 5, must soon be opened.

Again in accordance with precedent, the officers and directors of the old association became officers and directors of the new one:

Officers

MRS. J. F. LAIRD, President
MRS. MARY C. HAYNER, Vice-President
MRS. W. E. HASKELL, Rec. Secretary
MRS. JACOB WEAD, Cor. Secretary
MRS. W. B. PIERCE, Treasurer

Directors

MRS. J. F. LAIRD	MRS. HOMER STANFORD
MRS. MARY C. HAYNER	MRS. JOHN RANDALL
MRS. W. E. HASKELL	MRS. E. P. WADE
MRS. JACOB WEAD	MRS. WM. ELIOT SMITH
MRS. W. B. PIERCE	MRS. E. L. DRURY
MRS. H. S. MATTHEWS	MRS. SOPHIA STOWELL

At last the library was "endowed" and money difficulties seemed abolished. Gone were the days of suppers and lectures and fairs, of balls and calico parties, of concerts and excursions. It must have seemed at first to the ladies that their occupation was gone. For a long time to come they continued to hold each director responsible for supervision of the library for one month; and they planned constantly for improvements in the

library service, as fast as the contributions of generous friends made extension of library service possible.

In undertaking to follow the activities of a period of 31 years, it seems convenient to divide the time into decades.

The first meeting of the new organization was held November 5, 1901. The first decade, ending in November, 1911, was one of great activity and agitation, for much joy and much sorrow were crowded into these ten years.

In 1903 Mr. Hayner added to his previous endowment the sum of \$4,000—a gift which was very welcome to the directors who were learning that every extension of activities meant a discussion of ways and means.

In 1904 Mrs. Hayner, Mrs. Haskell, and Mr. John Haskell added \$30,000 to the endowment.

In addition to the gifts mentioned above, the treasurer's book shows more than \$7,000 received during these ten years as "donations," of which Mr. John Haskell gave \$2,000.

In 1907 the Annex was erected by Mr. John A. Haskell. The building which Mr. Hayner had erected in 1891 and which seemed then so commodious had been outgrown and the Annex doubled its capacity, providing a stack-room, a reference room, and, best of all, a children's room.

Those were doubtless *Red Letter* days for the board when frequent announcement was made of these various gifts; and doubtless there was rejoicing when the treasurer reported receipt of sums which seem insignificant in comparison. Now that it was no longer necessary or desirable to give suppers in order to raise funds, the ladies had on their hands tables, chairs, dishes, and linen for which a library had no use. It took almost the whole decade to find purchasers for these properties; but finally the deed was done; the directors themselves bought the last of the table-linen; and thus \$156 were added to the library funds.

There was some literary activity during this period. In 1901 the constitution and by-laws of the society were published in a neat booklet. From it we learn that at this time directors were elected for a period of six years. They were divided into six groups, so that the term of two directors expired each year. In 1909 the booklet entitled "Hayner Memorial Library" was published at the

expense of Mrs. Hayner and Mrs. Haskell. The historical material was collected and arranged by Mr. W. T. Norton. But not the least interesting part of the book is the appendix contributed by the president of the board, Mrs. J. P. Laird.

Such were the occasions for rejoicing during the first decade. Equally numerous were the causes for sorrow.

In 1901 died Mrs. C. L. Wright, who had served as treasurer for five years, as director for 23 years.

In 1903 died Mr. John Hayner, the kind and most generous benefactor of the library. It may easily be imagined with what emotion the members of the board received the news of his death.

In 1906 died Mrs. W. B. Pierce, treasurer of the association, director for 26 years. Her treasurer's book, which has been preserved, is a model of neatness, legibility, and accuracy.

In 1909 died Mr. William Eliot Smith, who had been a director of the Alton Public Library Association until the famous resolution of 1869 made him ineligible. His wife became a director of the current association and both Mr. and Mrs. Smith were generous contributors to the funds of the society.

In 1909 died Mrs. E. P. Wade, a director for 17 years, greatly loved and sorely missed by her associates on the board.

In 1910 died Mrs. Sophia Stowell, member of the board for 11 years. In her memory Mr. Stowell, who had for years given the board his assistance and advice in financial matters, gave a fund of \$500.

And in 1909 died Mrs. J. P. Laird, the beloved president of the board. This was a loss indeed. Member of the board for 36 years, serving successively as director in the Alton Public Library Association, in the Jennie D. Hayner Association and in the Free Library Association, president of the Alton Library Association for six years, of the Jennie D. Hayner Association for the entire period of its existence, and of the Free Library Association for eight years—in all 24 years—she ever maintained for herself and for the board as a whole a high standard of obligation and service.

Half the membership of the board had changed during this decade; five members had died, Mrs. Randall had re-

signed. Mrs. Hayner was elected president; Mrs. J. A. Haskell, Mrs. Frank Taylor, Mrs. E. M. Bowman, Miss Eunice Smith, and Mrs. H. H. Hewitt were elected to fill vacancies on the board. Mrs. Drury succeeded Mrs. Pierce as treasurer.

After periods of stress and strain there comes usually a lull. The next decade, from November, 1911, to November, 1921, was a quiet period with fewer bright days and fewer dark ones than the previous decade. The library hours were gradually extended until by 1917 the library was open six afternoons a week, two evenings, and one morning. The added work entailed, of course, increased salaries, but it was felt that much better service was thus given the public.

In 1912 Miss Florence Dolbee, who had acted as librarian for 32 years, resigned because of ill health. The board accepted her resignation with regret, loath to part with one who seemed an essential part of the library. Miss Harriet Dolbee, assistant librarian, was so familiar with the work that there was no interruption of the library activities, no confusion, when she took her sister's place as librarian. Miss Florence Dolbee died the following year.

In 1917 Mrs. Mary C. Hayner, president of the board, died. She had been president for eight years, member of the board for 21 years. Again the board was deprived of a leader who really led, a chief to whom they all looked for inspiration and encouragement.

Bright, however, were the days on which the board received notice of generous gifts from Mrs. Wm. Eliot Smith—in 1913, 1916, and 1917. In all her gifts during this decade amounted to \$12,500.

Mrs. W. A. Haskell succeeded Mrs. Hayner as president, Mrs. H. H. Hewitt was elected treasurer in place of Mrs. Drury, who, in 1920, declined re-election to the office which she had held for 14 years.

A fire in February, 1921, and a Library Convention held here in March of the same year are other incidents of this decade which are, perhaps, worthy of mention.

In the years that have passed since November, 1921, death has been busy in the membership of the board and

changes have been many. In 1921 the board was constituted as follows:

Officers

Mrs. W. A. HASKELL, President
 Mrs. H. S. MATTHEWS, Vice-President
 Mrs. JACOB WEAD, Secretary
 Mrs. H. H. HEWITT, Treasurer

Directors

Mrs. W. A. HASKELL	Mrs. WM. ELIOT SMITH
Mrs. H. S. MATTHEWS	Mrs. J. A. HASKELL
Mrs. JACOB WEAD	Mrs. E. M. BOWMAN
Mrs. H. H. HEWITT	MISS EUNICE SMITH
Mrs. HOMER STANFORD	Mrs. H. B. SPARKS
Mrs. E. L. DRURY	Mrs. R. D. SPARKS

In four years half the membership had changed by reason of death or resignation. Mrs. Drury, who had been treasurer for 14 years, and a director for 24 years, died in 1925. It was possible to fill her chair as director, but not her place in the hearts of her associates. In this same year five directors resigned; two, Mrs. H. B. Sparks and Mrs. R. D. Sparks, because of removal from the city. Mrs. R. D. Sparks has since returned and resumed her seat at the directors' table in 1930. Three other directors, Mrs. Matthews, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Stanford, resigned during this same year because of advancing years.

Mrs. John Duncan, Miss Bertha Ferguson, Mrs. Mary Stowell, Mrs. John McAdams, Miss Harriet Dolbee, and Mrs. Samuel Wade were chosen to fill the vacancies and the board carried on.

The next year, 1926, Mrs. W. A. Haskell declined re-election to the office of president, an office which she had filled so faithfully and efficiently for nine years. Miss Eunice Smith was elected president, and Mrs. Haskell retained her position as director.

In this same year, 1926, Mrs. Mary Stowell, who was elected director in 1925, died after one short year of membership. The resignation of Mrs. E. M. Bowman, who had retained her membership for several years after her removal from the city, created another vacancy. In 1927 died two members of the board who had given long years of service to the library—Mrs. Jacob Wead and Miss

Harriet Dolbee. Mrs. Wead had been a director for 31 years and had served as secretary, first as corresponding secretary and then as recording secretary, for many years. All who knew her loved her; all who worked with her during these long years found her cheery presence a help and inspiration in times of difficulty and discouragement. Miss Dolbee had been elected director in 1925, immediately after her resignation as librarian. It was thought that her long years of experience as librarian would make her invaluable as a director; fate had decided otherwise and her time of service was short.

Mrs. Jane Bassett, a trained librarian, succeeded Miss Dolbee as librarian. Mrs. Wade was elected secretary in place of Mrs. Wead, Miss Tilton Wead was chosen to fill a vacancy on the board.

Further extension of the library's work was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Haskell and Miss Smith. It was decided to open the library every evening, although this movement involved much additional expense. Mrs. Haskell and Miss Smith added each \$10,000 to the endowment fund.

In November, 1932, the members of the board were shocked, grieved, and dismayed by the news of the sudden death of Mrs. W. A. Haskell, who had for many years not only made yearly donations to supplement the income of the library but had guided and directed the activities of the board. At a called meeting held upon November 8, the following resolutions, which summarize, though inadequately, the services rendered by Mrs. Haskell to the library and therefore to the city, were adopted; and they are entered here as an essential part of this brief history:

Whereas we have lost from our number her who was chief among us, one who, following the example of her father, was mainly responsible for the maintenance of a free library in Alton, we, members of the board of directors of this library, resolve to express to the public our appreciation of the character and service of Mrs. W. A. Haskell, and to have this appreciation entered in the minutes of the board for the information and inspiration

of those who may succeed us in office, as a brief record of her labors.

The generosity of Mr. J. E. Hayner, Mrs. W. A. Haskell, and Mr. John Haskell gave to the city of Alton a permanent library building, and has for many years maintained for the citizens of Alton a free library, free from fees or taxation—truly a magnificent gift. But Mrs. Haskell, like her father, was not satisfied to give merely money; she "gave herself with her gift," contributing as freely of her time, her thought, and her service as of her means.

Read this simple record: member of the board of directors for forty-four years, secretary of the board for ten years, president of the board and chairman of the finance committee for many years, her interest never flagged, her unobtrusive, self-effacing helpfulness never failed. Even when advancing years and ill-health compelled her to ask relief from some of the responsibilities which she was carrying, she retained her position as a member of the board and was never absent from a meeting except when ill or absent from the city.

We, the members of the board, feel resting upon us a sacred obligation to carry on the work which Mrs. Haskell supported so effectively during these long years; but we feel, each of us, a sense of personal loss at the thought of meetings without the kindly presence to which we have been so long accustomed. We shall miss her cheery greeting, her soft-spoken decisions. We shall miss her generous words of commendation and appreciation for every service, however slight, for every helpful suggestion. We shall miss the stimulus of her faithful attendance, her unflagging interest; but we shall endeavor to keep the library a worthy and lasting memorial to the generous and unselfish service of our dear leader and friend, Mrs. W. A. Haskell.

With the death of Mrs. Haskell an epoch in the history of the board ended. Of all those who, in 1901, signed the papers which permitted the insertion of the word "free" in the charter, and who became first officers and directors of the free association, none is left; she was the last to go.

The list of officers and directors in service on January 1, 1933, consists wholly of new names.

Officers

MISS EUNICE SMITH, President
MISS BERTHA W. FERGUSON, Vice-President
MRS. SAMUEL WADE, Secretary
MRS. H. H. HEWITT, Treasurer

Directors

MISS EUNICE SMITH	MRS. JOHN DUNCAN
MISS BERTHA FERGUSON	MRS. JOHN MCADAMS
MRS. SAMUEL WADE	MISS TILTON WEAD
MRS. H. H. HEWITT	MRS. R. D. SPARKS
MRS. J. A. HASKELL	

The depleted ranks of the board had not yet been filled. A revision of the constitution authorized a board consisting of "not more than twelve nor fewer than six members," but it is planned to fill all vacancies at the next annual meeting.

The will of Mrs. Haskell showed that her help is to be extended to the library even after her death; the bequest will add \$50,000 to the endowment.

During this period of 32 years, the board had four presidents:

MRS. J. P. LAIRD.....	1901-1909
MRS. MARY CAROLINE HAYNER.....	1909-1917
MRS. W. A. HASKELL.....	1917-1926
MISS EUNICE SMITH.....	1926-1933

There were three secretaries:

MRS. W. A. HASKELL
MRS. JACOB WEAD
MRS. SAMUEL WADE

And three treasurers:

MRS. W. B. PIERCE
MRS. E. L. DRURY
MRS. H. H. HEWITT

It is interesting to note that interest in the library has been a tradition in certain Alton families. Miss Eunice Smith is the daughter of Wm. Eliot Smith, a director of the Alton Public Library Association, 1866-69, and her mother was a director of the present association for 24 years. Mrs. H. H. Hewitt is a niece of Mrs. Pierce, director and treasurer of the association for 26 years and a daughter of Mrs. E. L. Drury, a director of the present

association for 24 years and treasurer for 14 years. Her husband has been financial adviser of the board for many years. Mrs. J. A. Haskell is the wife of Mr. John Haskell, grandson of Mr. Hayner, and himself a generous contributor to the library. Mrs. John Duncan is a daughter of Mrs. E. P. Wade, who was a director in two of the library associations. Miss Tilton Wead is granddaughter of Mr. Thomas Dimmock, a director of the Alton Library Association in 1859, and daughter of Mrs. Jacob Wead, a director of two associations, and secretary for many years.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
of the
JENNIE D. HAYNER FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION**

	1901-1933	Elected	Retired
MRS. E. M. BOWMAN.....	1909	1925	
MISS HARRIETT DOLBEE	1925	1927*	
MRS. E. L. DRURY.....	1901	1925*	
MRS. JOHN DUNCAN	1925	.....
MISS BERTHA FERGUSON	1925	.....
MRS. J. A. HASKELL.....	1906	.....
MRS. W. A. HASKELL.....	1888	1932*	
MRS. MARY C. HAYNER.....	1896	1917*	
MRS. H. H. HEWITT.....	1910	.....
MRS. J. P. LAIRD.....	1873	1909*	
MRS. JOHN MCADAMS	1925	.....
MRS. H. S. MATTHEWS.....	1881	1925	
MRS. W. B. PIERCE.....	1880	1906*	
MRS. JOHN RANDALL	1888	1906	
MISS EUNICE SMITH	1909	.....
MRS. WM. ELIOT SMITH	1901	1925	
MRS. H. B. SPARKS.....	1912	1924	
MRS. R. D. SPARKS.....	1917	.....
MRS. HOMER STANFORD	1925	1925	
MRS. MARY STOWELL	1925	1926*	
MRS. SOPHIA STOWELL	1901	1912*	
MRS. FRANK TAYLOR	1906	1910	
MRS. E. P. WADE.....	1892	1909*	
MRS. SAMUEL WADE	1925	.....
MRS. JACOB WEAD	1896	1927*	
MISS TILTON WEAD	1928	.....

*Died.

FINANCES—1901-1933

During this period there was a steadily rising scale of expenses as the association tried to extend the usefulness of the library; and a constant effort to increase the endowment so as to meet these expenses. Gradually the library hours were increased, until now the library is open daily, except Sunday, from 1 to 9 p. m. Also it is the present policy of the board to keep a trained librarian at the head of the staff.

From the time that the library was made free, the endowment was found insufficient to meet expenses, and first Mr. Hayner, then Mrs. Haskell, supplemented the interest of the endowment by donations several times a year. Other friends also contributed generously, especially members of the Smith family.

It is difficult to trace the growth of the endowment, as bonds which were to be used for the purpose were simply deposited with Mr. Stowell, the financial advisor of the board. They did not pass through the hands of the treasurer or of the secretary, so the books of these officers do not record the time or amount of gifts to the endowment. In their books we find record of gifts as small as two dollars, but no record of the receipt of thousands.

The following account of the origin and growth of the fund has been compiled from such sources as are available; it undoubtedly contains some errors; but it seems substantially correct, tallying rather closely with the amount now actually on hand.

THE FUND BEGINS

The library was formally "endowed" by Mr. Hayner in 1901. We may, however, trace the beginning of the fund back to January, 1888, when Mr. Hayner offered to give \$500 toward a building fund, if the board would collect \$4,500. When, later, he generously decided to erect the building himself, the money collected by the directors was put aside as the beginning of an endowment fund. When the new building was ready in 1891, the directors had collected \$3,387. (See Hayner Memorial Library, page 55.) The directors turned over to the new

Jennie D. Hayner Library Association \$2,980 in bonds and \$889.92 in cash.

In 1891 Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Haskell gave to the library \$500 in bonds as a memorial to their daughter Lucy. Thus the Jennie D. Hayner Library had, in 1891, at least \$3,480 in bonds.

During the period 1891-1901 the directors endeavored earnestly to increase their small endowment. The secretary's book frequently reports progress. Under date of May 8, 1896, the book reports \$5,000 "at interest." After this date progress is reported, but definite amounts are not stated.

Mrs. Pierce, who was treasurer 1901-1907, opened a new book. On the first page she entered a list (not dated) of bonds belonging to the library. It seems probable that the list, which totals \$21,800, was made in 1901 when the book was opened. Mr. Hayner's first endowment was \$15,000. (See Hayner Memorial Library, page 39.) Dr. Haskell's endowment in 1891 was \$500. It may be conjectured that the rest of the \$21,800, i. e., \$6,300, was from the fund of the board, since in 1896 this fund already amounted to \$5,000. Of this sum \$950, which had been contributed by directors or ex-directors, was designated the "Emeline H. Martin Fund" in remembrance of Mrs. Martin, who died while president of the board.

THE FUND GROWS

When a gift is referred to by the secretary, without specification as to its use, it is frequently difficult to learn whether the sum was applied toward current expenses, or added to the endowment. In compiling the following table, it is assumed as probable that gifts of \$500 or less were considered as "donations," to be used as needed, unless there was a specific stipulation attached; while gifts of \$1,000 or more have been counted as additions to the endowment. If the table is approximately correct, the Hayner-Haskell endowment amounts to \$75,000 (not including the bequest in Mrs. Haskell's will); the Smith family have added \$32,000; the rest came in smaller sums from various sources.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Lucy Haskell Memorial; \$500; interest to be spent for children's books.

Mr. E. M. Bowman's "Life Membership" for his mother; \$50; interest to pay for borrower's card for some one not a resident of the city.

Mr. E. M. Bowman's Lincoln Fund; \$450; interest to be used for Lincoln books.

Music Fund; \$500; interest to be used for music books.

Wm. Eliot Smith Memorial; \$10,000; interest to be used for "Classed" books.

In addition to these gifts Miss Smith gave in 1929 \$5,000 to be used as needed for Reference books and not counted as part of the endowment.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

1891	Lucy Haskell Memorial	\$ 500.00
1901	Fund raised by board,?	6,300.00
1901	Mr. Hayner	15,000.00
1902	Mr. Bowman	50.00
1902	Mr. Hayner	4,000.00
1904	(?) Mrs. Haskell, Mrs. Hayner, and Mr. John Haskell	30,000.00
1906	Mr. John Haskell	2,000.00
1907	Mr. John Haskell	1,000.00
1908	Mr. John Haskell	10,000.00
1908	Dr. W. A. Haskell (Medical Library)	2,500.00
1913	Mrs. Wm. Eliot Smith	2,000.00
1917	Mrs. and Miss Smith	10,000.00
1922	Mr. E. M. Bowman (Lincoln Coll.)	50.00
1925	Mr. E. M. Bowman (Lincoln Coll.)	400.00
1925	Miss Smith (Wm. Eliot Smith Mem.)	10,000.00
1926	Mr. Stowell (memorial to his wife)	500.00
	Music Fund	500.00
1928	Miss Smith	10,000.00
1928	Mrs. Wm. A. Haskell	10,000.00
		\$114,800.00
1932	Actual Endowment	\$115,150.00

FINAL LIST
of
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
of the
FOUR LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS
1853-1933

	Served	Association
ASH, J. W.	1867	II
ATWOOD, R. G.	1866-68	II
BARRY, A. S.	1853-56	I
BARRY, B. F.	1856	I
BLAIR, J. L.	1854	I
BREATH, ABRAHAM	1856	I
BUCKMASTER, JOHN	1857	I
BURNETT, HARVEY	1853	I
CALDWELL, L. P.	1858-60	I
CALVIN, J. W.	1855-56	I
CRANDALL, C. M.	1857	I
DAVIS, LEVI	1866	II
DIMMOCK, THOMAS	1859	I
FITCH, JOHN	1859-60, 66	I, II
HALEY, W. D.	1854-55	I
HAWLEY, G. W.	1867-68	II
HIBBARD, J. W.	1856, 1866	I, II
HOLLISTER, E.	1867	II
HOLTON, W. A.	1856	I
JOHNSON, NORTON	1853-54	I
KENT, L.	1860	I
McGREGORY, S. E.	1858	I
McMASTERS, S. Y.	1854-55	I
MCNULTY, J.	1859	I
McPIKE, H. G.	1855-56	I
METCALF, L. S.	1853	I
MILLER, W. T.	1853-54, 59	I
MUNGER, C. A.	1868	II
MURRAY, C. A.	1866-67	II
OLCOTT, A.	1860	I
PADDOCK, GAIUS	1858	I
PEARSON, J. M.	1855-58, 1866	I, II
PERRIN, WM.	1867-68	II
PICKARD, PHILANDER	1857, 1860	I
QUIGLEY, W. C.	1857-58	I
RANDLE, P. W.	1853-54	I

	Served	Association
ROBBINS, S. W.	1854	I
SCARRITT, HENRY	1866	II
SCARRITT, ISAAC	1853-56	I
SMITH, ROBERT	1866	II
SMITH, UTEN	1857*	I
SMITH, WM. ELIOT	1866-68	II
SOUTHER, LOUIS	1857, 1859	I
STAUNTON, J. M.	1858	I
STEWART, J. T.	1857-58, 1860	I
STEWART, S. B. W.	1860	I
TANSEY, R. P.	1866	II
TOPPING, M. H.	1866-69	II
TRUMBLELL, CHAS.	1855-57	I
TURNER, W. H.	1853-54	I
UNDERHILL, R. T.	1857-58	I
WOLFORD, A. G.	1853-55; 66, 68	I, II
WOODS, JOHN	1854	I
WRIGHT, C. L.	1859	I
ATWOOD, MRS. R. W.	1871-1885	II
BARRY, MRS. A. S.	1866-1873	II
BILLINGS, MRS. H. W.	1869-1871	II
BISHOP, MISS ALICE	1869-1869	II
BOWMAN, MRS. E. M.	1909-1925	IV
BOWMAN, MRS. H. B.	1873-1888	II
CRANDALL, MRS. C. M.	1869-1887	II
DOLBEE, MISS HARRIETT	1925-1927	IV
DRURY, MRS. E. L.	1901-1925	IV
DUNCAN, MRS. JOHN	1925	IV
EATON, MRS. HENRY	1871-1879	II
EVERTS, MRS. W. T.	1879-1880	II
FERGUSON, MISS BERTHA	1925	IV
GUERNSEY, MISS FANNY	1866-1867	II
HANSON, MRS. A. H.	1869-1873	II
HASKELL, MRS. A. S.	1873-1873	II
HASKELL, MRS. J. A.	1906	IV
HASKELL, MRS. W. A.	1888-1932	II, III, IV
HAWLEY, MRS. A. T.	1875-1901	II, III
HAYNER, MRS. JENNIE D.	1877-1888	II
HAYNER, MRS. MARY C.	1896-1917	III, IV
HEWITT, MRS. H. H.	1910	IV
HIBBARD, MRS. J. W.	1866-1873	II
HOLLISTER, MRS. E.	1866-1875	II

*Mr. Utten Smith was librarian 1853-60.

	Served	Association
KENDALL, MRS. L. O.....	1870-1872	II
LAIRD, MRS. J. P.....	1873-1909	II, III, IV
MCADAMS, MRS. JOHN.....	1925	IV
MARSH, MISS MARY.....	1867-1867	II
MARTIN, MRS. W. W.....	1873-1888	II
MATTHEWS, MRS. H. S.....	1881-1925	II, III, IV
MILLER, MRS. W. T.....	1869-1875	II
MITCHELL, MRS. J. J.....	1866-1874	II
NICHOLS, MRS. F. K.....	1873-1878	II
PADDOCK, MISS GEORGIA.....	1869-1871	II
PERLEY, MRS. R. G.....	1869-1885	II
PIERCE, MRS. W. B.....	1880-1906	II, III, IV
PRIEST, MRS. H. C.....	1885-1896	II, III
RANDALL, MRS. JOHN.....	1888-1906	II, III, IV
ROOT, MRS. A. K.....	1874-1901	II, III
SCHWEPPPE, MRS. J. W.....	1869-1877	II
SMITH, MISS EUNICE.....	1909	IV
SMITH, MRS. WM. ELIOT.....	1901-1925	IV
SPARKS, MRS. H. B.....	1912-1924	IV
SPARKS, MRS. R. D.....	1917	IV
STANFORD, MRS. HOMER.....	1887-1925	II, III, IV
STOWELL, MRS. MARY.....	1925-1926	IV
STOWELL, MRS. SOPHIA.....	1901-1912	IV
TAYLOR, MRS. FRANK.....	1906-1910	IV
TOPPING, MRS. M. F.....	1872-1892	II, III, IV
WADE, MRS. E. P.....	1892-1909	III, IV
WADE, MRS. SAMUEL.....	1925	IV
WEAD, MRS. JACOB.....	1896-1927	III, IV
WEAD, MISS TILTON.....	1928	IV
WHIPPLE, MRS. P. B.....	1869-1871	II
WILLIAMS, MRS. N. D.....	1871-1896	II, III
WRIGHT, MRS. C. L.....	1878-1901	II, III

LIBRARIANS
1853-1932

	Served	Association
MR. UTSEN SMITH.....	1853-1860	I
MISS LOUDEN.....	1869-1871	II
MISS DOUGLAS.....	1871-1875	II
MISS BLANCHE DOLBEE.....	1875-1878	II
MISS McClURE.....	1878-1880	II
MISS FLORENCE DOLBEE.....	1880-1912	II, III, IV
MISS HARRIET DOLBEE.....	1912-1925	IV
MRS. JANE BASSETT.....	1925	IV

ADDENDUM

In searching for the records of the several Library Associations an old book was brought to light which contains the records of "The Alton Literary Society" for the year 1838. In the list of membership are found the names of many of the leading citizens of Alton in the old days; at least two of the members later became mayors, first of Alton, then of St. Louis.

While this old book has no connection with the history of the library, it seems not out of place to mention here its existence, since it seems long to have been forgotten, and to record the fact that in the year 1933 it was safely preserved in the office of the library.

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